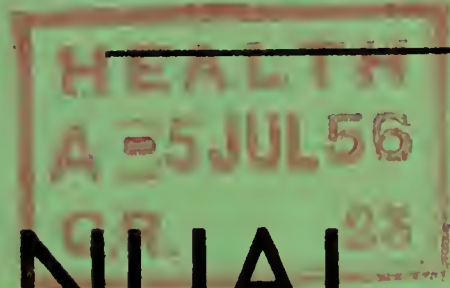


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RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955





RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF  
AMESBURY

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1955.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 24770. The excess of births over deaths during 1955 was 306 and the rate of natural increase is thus 12.3 per 1000 population. There were 424 (219 male and 205 female) live births which give a rate per 1000 population of 22.6 corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 15.7 and that for England and Wales 15.0 per 1000 population.

The death rate based on 118 deaths (64 male and 54 female) after correction for comparability is 8.2 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales and for the administrative county respectively was 11.7 and 10.4 per 1000 population.

The deaths at 65 years and over represent 50 per cent of the total deaths (118) of which 34 occurred at 75 years and over.

The death rate in infants under one year of age (infant mortality rate) is 21.2 per 1000 live births: there were actually 9 (6 male and 3 female) such deaths in 424 live births during 1955. The corresponding figures for this rate in the administrative county were 18.4 per 1000 live births and 24.9 per 1000 live births for England and Wales.

The neonatal (under 4 weeks of age) deaths numbered 7 (5 male and 2 female) and this gives a rate of 16.5 per 1000 live births.

Death rates from special causes gave the following rates per 1000 population, for cancer 0.6 ; coronary disease 0.6 ; and cerebral haemorrhage 0.6.

The proportional mortality rates of principal diseases expressed as a proportion of the total deaths during the year were diseases of the heart and circulation other than coronary disease 15.2 per cent ; cancer 13.6 per cent ; coronary disease 13.6 per cent ; cerebral vascular lesions 12.7 per cent ; and pneumonia and bronchitis 7.6 per cent.

The *incidence rates* per 1000 population for the following *notifiable diseases* in the District during 1955 were, measles 11.6, scarlet fever 1.3, and whooping cough 2.2.

Notifications of infectious diseases numbered 391 for the District during 1955, as against 150 in the previous year, this increase was largely due to measles.

The month of greatest incidence was ~~May~~ <sup>JUNE</sup> with ~~288~~ <sup>125</sup> notifications of which ~~186~~ were measles. Of the 288 cases of measles 151 occurred between the ages of 5 and 10 years. This age group also produced the highest incidence (202) of infectious diseases.

Tuberculosis notifications which are included above numbered 8 during 1955 ; one was non-respiratory.

Two hundred and fifty nine children under 15 years of age completed primary inoculation against diphtheria during 1955 in the Rural District ; 102 were under one year of age, 100 between 1-5 years, and 57 between 5-15 years of age. Three hundred and two re-inoculations were also done in the Rural District during the year. The number of live births was 424 in 1955 in the Rural District.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

*I have the honour to be,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

RODERICK MACKAY,

*Medical Officer of Health,*

18TH MAY, 1955.



## STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	I. L. FISHER, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector
Additional Sanitary Inspector	R. WILKINSON, C.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector
Rodent Operator	R. H. COOMBS

The Medical Officer of Health acts also in that capacity for the other three constituent authorities of the East Wilts Combined District, viz.: Marlborough M.B., Pewsey R.D., and Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D., and is responsible for the public health duties imposed by statute upon his office; he holds in addition, the appointment of assistant County Medical Officer and in this respect carries out, on behalf of the County Council, duties in connection with the welfare services for which it is mainly responsible.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector together with his assistant carries out within the District, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, with whose duties those of the Sanitary Inspector are complementary, the statutory duties which are placed upon the authority generally in connection with the public health.

The duties of the Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer of Health are satisfactorily integrated.

Matters of Public Health are normally dealt with by the General Purposes Committee and Housing Committee of the District Council.

## GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	....	....	....	....	....	63455
Number of Parishes	....	....	....	....	....	17
Population mid-1955 as estimated by the Registrar						
General	....	....	....	....	Total	24770
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	4673
Number of new houses erected in 1955 :—						
By Private Enterprise	....	....	....	....	....	50
By Local Authority	....	....	....	....	....	83
Rateable value	....	....	....	....	....	£167286
Sum represented by a Penny rate (estimated)	....	....	....	....	....	£675

## VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	219	205	424
Legitimate	211	200	411
Illegitimate	8	5	13
Still Births	10	3	13
Legitimate	10	3	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Live Birth Rate			22.6
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.0
Number of Deaths from all causes	64	54	118
Death Rate			8.2
Death Rate for England and Wales			11.7
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	6	3	9
Legitimate	6	3	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births			21.2
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales			24.9

### NOTE :

The number of births, still-births and deaths are those registered during 1955 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

### BIRTH RATE, INFANT DEATH RATE, TOTAL DEATH RATE,

	1955		
	Amesbury R.D.	Administrative County	England and Wales
Birth Rate (per 1000 popn.)	22.6	15.7	15.0
Death Rate (per 1000 popn.)	8.2	10.4	11.7
Death Rate of Infants under one year (per 1000 live births)	21.2	18.4	24.9

# PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT, 1946-55

Year

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Population .....	13430	13780	14050	*24750	*21860	*25470	*24430	*24080	*26960	*24770
Live Births .....	323	418	364	387	389	408	380	420	408	424
	24.1	30.3	25.9	15.6	17.8	16.0	15.6	17.4	15.1	17.1
Still Births .....	10	6	8	6	11	8	8	8	8	13
	30.0	14.2	21.5	15.3	27.5	19.2	20.6	18.7	19.2	29.7
Total Deaths .....	122	134	126	136	130	141	147	110	107	118
	9.1	9.7	9.0	5.5	5.9	5.5	6.0	4.6	4.0	4.8
Infant Deaths.....	12	20	14	9	10	8	8	16	8	9
	37.2	47.8	38.5	23.3	25.7	19.6	21.1	23.8	19.6	21.2
Tuberculosis Deaths .....	3	7	6	4	7	1	3	1	0	1
	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cancer Deaths .....	17	13	20	18	17	28	25	18	18	16
	1.3	0.9	1.4	0.7	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6
Pneumonia Deaths.....	4	4	2	3	5	7	10	8	4	2
	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1

\*Includes armed forces from and including 1949.

N.B. The corresponding rate is given *underlined* together with the figure on which it is based. With the exception of the infant death rate which is calculated per 1000 live births, and the still birth rate per 1000 *total* births, the rates given above are computed per 1000 of the population. The birth and death rates are not corrected in this table for area comparability.

## **INFECTIOUS DISEASES**

The total number of infectious diseases during 1955 was 391 as compared with 150 in 1954, and 464 in 1953. There were 288 notifications for measles, and the months with the highest numbers were April, May and June. Age group from 5-10 years had the highest numbers, not only in measles but of the infective diseases notified.

## **TUBERCULOSIS**

Seven notifications were received in respect of respiratory tuberculosis and one for the non-respiratory form of the disease.



NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1955

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sep. Oct. Nov. Dec. Total

Whooping cough	5	3	1	2	6	3	3	7	6	2	11	6	55
Dysentery	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
Scarlet fever	-	-	3	3	9	5	3	4	1	3	1	-	32
Measles	3	4	12	80	60	116	12	-	1	-	-	-	288
Meningitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomylclitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	-	1	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	7
Other tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Totals	8	9	19	87	75	125	18	12	11	8	12	7	391

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1955

Disease	Total	Age (years)												
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65	
Whooping cough	55	5	7	6	4	5	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dysentery	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet fever	32	-	-	-	3	5	21	3	-	-	-	-	1	
Measles	288	4	24	30	35	31	151	7	3	2	-	1	-	
Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Poliomyelitis	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	
Totals	383	10	31	37	43	41	202	10	4	2	-	2	1	

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

One hundred and two infants under one year old were inoculated against diphtheria in 1955 in the Rural District. The number of live births for the same year was 424.

The numbers immunized in the age groups 1-4 and 5-15 years respectively were 100 and 57; and the total number primarily immunized in 1955 in the Rural District was 259.

The following numbers were immunized during the last ten years.

<i>Age Group, (Years)</i>	<i>Year</i>										<i>Total</i>
	1946	'47	'48	'49	'50	'51	'52	'53	'54	'55	
Under 5	113	108	123	210	172	360	268	190	350	202	2096
5-15	13	117	30	124	42	48	55	40	45	57	571
Totals	126	225	153	334	214	408	323	230	395	259	2667

The total number of primary vaccinations performed during the year in the Rural District was 274, of which 211 were under one year old or about 50 per cent of the annual births (424) in the Rural District during 1955.

## HOUSING

The Council's activities under this heading has been detailed in the current report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The number of houses built during the last five years are :—

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
By Local Authority ....	117	76	72	140	83
Privately .....	19	30	46	33	50
Total .....	136	106	118	173	133

There were 356 applicants awaiting rehousing in 1955 in the Rural District.

Further details under this heading are given in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, in which it will be noted that housing takes up a considerable proportion of departmental time.

## WATER SUPPLY

In view of the continued need for an adequate water supply in most of the populous villages of the Bourne valley it is to be hoped that the regional water scheme will not be long delayed.

The public water supplies at Amesbury, Durrington and Shrewton, and water from other sources at Cholderton, Tilshead and Figheldean are chlorinated.

These supplies have proved to be satisfactory in quality and quantity although it has been necessary to supplement the Amesbury supply by drawing on that at Durrington.

### **FOOD SUPERVISION**

No considerable incidence of illness attributable to food contamination was noted during the year, and to this extent at any rate the standard of food hygiene may be said to have been generally satisfactory. There can, however, be no complacency in the matter in view of the great risk of bowel infection spreading as the direct result of unsatisfactory food handling. Further information under this heading is detailed in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

# CAUSES OF DEATH

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN, 1955

		M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ....	1	—	1
2	Tuberculosis, other ....	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease ....	1	—	1
4	Diphtheria ....	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough ....	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections ....	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis....	—	—	—
8	Measles ....	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ....	—	—	—
10	Malignant neplasms, stomach ....	—	2	2
11	„ „ lung-bronchus ....	2	—	2
12	„ „ breast ....	—	1	1
13	„ „ uterus ....	—	2	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	6	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ....	—	1	1
16	Diabetes ....	—	1	1
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system ....	9	6	15
18	Coronary disease, angina ....	8	8	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease ....	1	—	1
20	Other heart disease....	5	6	11
21	Other circulatory disease ....	2	4	6
22	Influenza ....	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia ....	1	1	2
24	Bronchitis ....	5	2	7
25	Other diseases of respiratory system ....	1	—	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ....	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ....	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ....	1	—	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations ....	1	1	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	7	10	17
33	Motor vehicle accidents ....	8	1	9
34	All other accidents ....	8	1	9
35	Suicide ....	1	1	2
36	Homicide and operations of war ....	—	—	—
Total of all causes		64	54	118



RURAL DISTRICT OF AMESBURY

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I have the honour to present my seventh Annual Report of work carried out by the Public Health Department of the Council during the year 1955.

The tables and particulars in the Report are in conformity with requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 17/55 dated 23rd November, 1955.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and co-operation given during the year.

It also gives me great pleasure to place on record my appreciation of the help given by the Medical Officer of Health, in the discharge of our joint responsibilities and to express my thanks to my colleagues in other Departments for co-operation at all times.

*I am Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

I. L. FISHER.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector.*

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

### NUMBER AND NATURE OF VISITS OR INSPECTIONS DURING 1955

#### *GENERAL SANITATION*

Number of Inspections re Water Supply	....	....	....	33	
Number of Inspections re Drainage of Property	....	....	....	759	
Number of Inspections re Keeping of Animals	....	....	....	17	
Number of Inspections of Moveable Dwellings	....	....	....	112	
Number of Inspections under Factories Act	....	....	....	29	
Number of Inspections of Outworkers Premises	....	....	....	5	
Number of Inspections of Bakehouses	....	....	....	11	
Number of Inspections of Licensed Premises	....	....	....	1	
Number of Inspections re Refuse Collection and Disposal				14	
Number of Inspections under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	....	....	....	42	
Number of Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	....	....	....	58	
Number of Inspections re Sampling of Water Supplies	....			196	
Number of Inspections re Sampling of Sewage Effluent	....			26	1303
				<hr/>	

#### *HOUSING*

Number of Houses inspected under Public Health Act	45				
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	63			108	
	<hr/>				
Number of Houses inspected under Housing Acts	237				
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	362			599	
	<hr/>				
Number of Houses inspected re Overcrowding	....	....		4	
Number of Miscellaneous Housing Visits	....	....	....	123	
Number of Houses inspected re Verminous conditions	3				
Number of Visits paid to above Houses (Reinspections)	3			6	840
	<hr/>			<hr/>	
Number of Property Owners/Agents and Builders inter- viewed	....	....	....	136	

#### *INFECTIOUS DISEASES*

Number of Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	....			77	
Number of Visits re Disinfection	....	....	....	1	
Number of Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits	....			14	92
				<hr/>	
					2235

#### *MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION*

Number of Visits to Poultry Packing Station	....	....		242	
Number of Visits to Knackers Yard	....	....	....	6	
Number of Visits to Butchers Shops	....	....	....	28	

Number of Visits to Grocers	....	....	....	9	
Number of Visits to Dairies and Milkshops	....	....	....	23	
Number of Visits to Ice Cream Premises	....	....	....	58	
Number of Visits to Food Preparing Premises	....	....	....	22	
Number of Visits in connection with the Sampling of Milk (Bacteriological)	....	....	....	133	
Number of Visits in connection with the Sampling of Milk (Eiological)	....	....	....	24	
Number of Visits in connection with the Sampling of Milk (Bottle Washings Samples)	....	....	....	63	
Number of Miscellaneous Food Visits	....	....	....	40	648
					<hr/> 2883

### ERADICATION OF VERMIN

Very little action has been found necessary during the year and only three cases, all of a minor nature, were investigated. All were satisfactorily dealt with by the use of Proprietary Insecticide with residual D.D.T. and subsequent visits to the premises revealed no further signs of infestation.

### FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948

Inspections of the Factories within the District have shown that conditions are generally satisfactory. Any defects or contraventions noted have all been of minor character and have been remedied as a result of informal action.

The following is a list of the Factories in the District.

Bakers and Confectioners .....	10
Engineering, including Garages .....	19
Electricity Generating .....	2
Joinery, woodworking .....	8
Testing of Flow Meters .....	1
Coachbuilding .....	2
Milk Pasteurising .....	1
Laundering .....	2
Corn Milling.....	1
Manufacture of Explosives .....	1
Sausage Making .....	1
Vehicle Painting .....	1
Tailoring .....	2
Tobacco and Cigarettes .....	1
Aircraft Testing .....	1
Instrument Repairs .....	1
Cine Film Camera Testing.....	1
Cinematograph Film Manufacture .....	1
Oil Gas .....	1
Fruit Juice and Bottle Washing .....	1
Upholstery and Furniture Repairs .....	1



## **OUTWORKERS**

Five outworkers were notified to the Department by other Authorities during the course of the year, all being engaged in the manufacture of knitted wear. Inspections of the premises were made as notifications were received, and no action was found to be necessary.

## **REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL**

The Refuse Collection System has continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year, collections being made once weekly in the larger villages and once fortnightly in the smaller Parishes. All refuse collected in the District is disposed of at the Council's Refuse Tip at Porton Firs, by means of controlled tipping and conditions at this site remain satisfactory.

The separation of saleable materials such as metal and rags is carried out at the Refuse Tip and these articles, together with salvaged Waste Paper, have been sold to contractors.

## **HOUSING**

The provision of new housing accommodation has closely engaged the Council's attention throughout the year, and in the year under review 80 houses were completed, a further 56 being in course of erection at the end of the year. The number of applicants on the Council's Non-Priority Housing List has remained very high and in view of the Government's decision to reduce the subsidy on Council Houses the Waiting Lists were reviewed with the object of ascertaining a realistic estimate of the need for more Council Houses. At the end of the year there were still 356 applicants on these lists.

Good progress was made on the erection of houses allocated for persons living in huttled camps and by the end of the year only three families remained to be rehoused.

Attention was also directed towards the demolition of unfit properties included in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme prepared under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and by the end of the year representations had been made in respect of twenty one such properties. Details of work carried out under both the Housing Act and Public Health Act are set out in the following table.

The number of applications for improvement grants continued to increase and during the year applications were received in respect of forty properties. Of these one was withdrawn, twenty-eight were approved and eleven were still under consideration at the end of the year. It is interesting to note that whilst in previous years applications for grants have been mainly in respect of owner/occupied premises, the majority of the applications received in 1955 were in respect of tenanted properties mostly occupied by agricultural workers.

The following table shows the action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts during the year.



Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation ....	21
Number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ....	39
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to :—	
(a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works ....	30
(b) the making of demolition or closing orders ....	12
Number of notices served requiring the execution of works ....	30
Number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ....	1
Number of demolition or closing orders made ....	6
Number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (3) of Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 ....	1
Number of undertakings completed ....	1
Number of houses demolished ....	* 10

\* Includes 3 Crown properties demolished as a result of negotiation.  
Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(i) Number of cases discovered during the year ....	14
(ii) Number of cases abated during the year ....	12

## RODENT CONTROL

The control measures recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food are closely followed by the Rodent Operator under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

All complaints received have been investigated and dealt with promptly and the work carried out during the year was efficient and satisfactory. The number of complaints received during 1955 showed a marked decrease compared with previous years and this has resulted in more time being devoted to the work of survey. There is no doubt that the overall situation has greatly improved since the Council has instituted their service. It is also true to say that the public, and notably the agricultural members, are far more conscious of the need for taking action to destroy rats and mice and much use is being made by farmers of Warfarin in keeping vermin under control.

The Refuse Tip and the two major sewage works sites have been treated regularly and kept well under control. The annual test baiting of public sewers showed these to be free from infestation.

The following table sets out the work carried out by the Operator during the year.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	<i>Local Authority</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses</i>	<i>Agricultural</i>	<i>All other (including business premises)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Properties inspected as a result (a) notification (b) Survey (c) otherwise	(a) —	34	1	6	41
	(b) 4	684	62	39	789
	(c) —	1	—	1	2
Total inspections carried out including reinspections	15	720	63	47	845
Number of properties inspected (as above) which were found to be infested with rats	Major 4	—	2	1	5
	Minor —	114	25	8	147
Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested with mice	Major —	3	—	—	3
	Minor —	—	—	—	—
Number of infested properties shown above treated by Local Authority	4	87	2	9	102
Total treatments carried out including retreatment	15	88	2	10	115
Number of Notices served under Section 4 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, requiring treatment	—	—	—	—	—

Number of “ block control ” schemes carried out : 3.

## WATER SUPPLY

The Public Supplies owned and operated by the Council are in the Parishes of Amesbury, Durrington and Shrewton.

### AMESBURY

In view of the continued heavy demand on this source it has been necessary to continue to augment the supply with water from Durrington. The only satisfactory manner of relieving the pressure on this supply will be its connection to the reservoir to be constructed at Earls Down as part of the Regional Water Supply Scheme.

No extensions have been made to this supply during the year.

Regular bacteriological examinations of the raw and treated water have been carried out and the results have, without exception, shown no evidence of pollution. A chemical sample was also analysed, the results being as follows :—

Physical Characters.....	A clear colourless water. No deposit.
CHEMICAL.....	Parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia .....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 degrees. C. ....	0.004
Chlorides .....	2.2
Nitrogenas nitrates .....	1.0
Total Hardness .....	25.0
(a) Temporary .....	16.5
(b) Permanent .....	8.5
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrites .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....	Nil

### BACTERIOLOGICAL

Total Colonies in 48 hours . . Nil . . Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B Coli . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

### OPINION :

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

### DURRINGTON AND BULFORD

This supply has continued to work satisfactorily throughout the year.

The work of extending the water main at Hackthorn, Durrington was completed during the early part of the year.



The results of the Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of this supply are given below.

Physical Characters.....	A clear colourless water. No deposit
CHEMICAL : .....	Parts per 100,000
Reaction.....	Alkaline pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia .....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 de- grees C. ....	0.004
Chlorides .....	2.4
Nitrogenas nitrates .....	1.0
Total Hardness.....	25.5
(a) Temporary .....	16.0
(b) Permanent .....	9.5
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrites .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....	Nil

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL :

Total Colonies in 48 hours . . Nil . . Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.

Number of Faecal types of B. Coli . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

#### OPINION :

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

#### SHREWTON

This supply continues to function satisfactorily and there is reserve for future connections.

During the year the water main was extended to serve new development at The Hollows, Shrewton.

Samples of water have been taken regularly for bacteriological examination and have been found to be satisfactory. A sample was also submitted for chemical examination and the results are set out below.

Physical Characters.....	A clear colourless water. No deposit
CHEMICAL : .....	Parts per 100,000
Reaction .....	Alkaline pH 7.1
Saline and free Ammonia.....	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia.....	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in two hours at 27 de- grees C. ....	0.004
Chlorides .....	1.7
Nitrogenas nitrates .....	1.0



Total Hardness.....	20.5
(a) Temporary .....	9.5
(b) Permanent .....	11.0
Poisonous Metals .....	Nil
Nitrites .....	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment.....	Nil

### *BACTERIOLOGICAL :*

Total Colonies in 48 hours . . 1 . . Per 1 c.c. of Water growing at 37 degrees C.  
Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of water growing at 37 degrees C.  
Number of Faecal types of B Coli . . Nil . . Per 100 c.c. of Water growing at 44 degrees C.

### *OPINION :*

Chemical examination satisfactory. Bacteriological examination shows no evidence of pollution.

### *OTHER SUPPLIES*

The undermentioned Parishes obtain a supply from privately owned water schemes :—

Cholderton (Cholderton Water Company)

Wilsford cum Lake (Lake Estate)

Tilshead and Figcheldean (Supply taken in bulk from the War Department Trunk Main)

Samples of water taken from the Lake Estate supply revealed that the supply is contaminated at source. The Owners were contacted and at the end of the year were considering the installation of a chlorination unit. The remaining supplies have been sampled regularly and the water submitted for bacteriological examination and in all instances were found to be free from contamination.

### *REGIONAL WATER SCHEMES*

In February, 1955, the Minister of Housing and Local Government intimated that he was prepared to approve the Scheme in principle and the Council immediately informed the Minister that they wished to proceed with parts of the Scheme. Approval was subsequently received from the Minister for the sinking of a new borehole at Newton Toney and to carry out part of the main scheme. By the end of the year the work of constructing the new borehole had been commenced and tenders invited for the works authorised in 1955/56.

It was also decided to extend this Scheme to include the laying of water supply to the rapidly developing area of Firs Road, Winterbourne.

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE**

### *AMESBURY*

Work has continued throughout the year on the extension of the Amesbury Sewage Disposal Works and part of the new works came into use towards the end of the year. The remainder of the works were nearing completion and when the plant is fully in operation it will be capable of dealing satisfactorily with the demand likely to be made upon it.

Samples of the effluent have been taken regularly during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination and all have proved satisfactory.

No further progress was made during the year with regard to the proposed sewerage of the newly developed section of Countess Road, Amesbury.

### *BULFORD AND DURRINGTON*

The work of connecting properties to the new sewers laid in the Parishes of Bulford and Durrington has proceeded steadily throughout the year, and at the end of the year under review a total of 601 properties had been connected thereto. Of these 462 properties were in the Parish of Durrington and 139 in the Parish of Bulford. The majority of the work has been carried out voluntarily by the Owners, but in a few cases it has been found necessary to serve Statutory Notices.

A new sewer was constructed during the year to serve the properties in Recreation Road, Durrington.

### *SHREWTON*

The provision of a Sewerage Scheme for the Parish of Shrewton has remained high on the list of capital works to be carried out by the Council and at the end of the year the Council were awaiting the decision of the Minister of Housing and Local Government to their request to invite tenders for this work.

The sanitary circumstances in parts of this Parish are such that the need for the early provision of a sewerage scheme cannot be overstressed.

## **MOVEABLE DWELLINGS**

The use of Moveable Dwellings as housing accommodation is considerable in this area, and the position in the Parish of Amesbury caused some concern during the latter part of the year. A number of Moveable Dwellings occupied by persons employed, or stationed, at Boscombe Down, and stationed and used on Crown Land, were required to be removed from their sites to make way for new housing accommodation. Most of these were removed to the Kitchener Road area creating very unsatisfactory conditions. The Council were at the end of the year prepared to consider acquiring land for the purpose of creating a caravan site but some difficulty is likely to be experienced in the selection of suitable areas of land.

In other Parishes Moveable Dwellings are mostly used as single units on sites and regular inspections have revealed that conditions are generally satisfactory, and any matters of complaint have been dealt with as a result of verbal notice.



# INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## MILK SUPPLY

The supply of milk throughout the District has been satisfactory during the year, most of the milk consumed being Pasteurised and supplied from the Milk Factory situated at Amesbury.

Within the District there are :—

Registered Milk Distributors .....	6
Registered Dairies .....	1
Dealers Licensed to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk ....	4
Dealers Licensed to sell Pasteurised Milk .....	3

Samples of milk have been taken regularly throughout the year from all the Distributors and a total of 133 samples were submitted for the Statutory Tests and also for Biological examination, the majority proving satisfactory. When unsatisfactory results have been received the matter has been referred to the Milk Regulations Officer of the Wiltshire Agricultural Executive Committee for any necessary action by his Department.

Towards the end of the year a number of complaints were received as to the dirty condition of bottles used for containing milk and in one instance of the presence of fragments of glass in a milk bottle. The Council decided to institute legal proceedings in these cases, but the Court hearing had not taken place at the end of the year.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are no slaughter houses within the District for the slaughter of animals for human consumption, all killing being done at the Abattoir in the City of Salisbury.

There is one licensed Knackers Yard in the District and on periodic visits to the premises condition have been found satisfactory.

Daily visits have been made to the Poultry Packing Station at Amesbury for the purpose of inspecting the poultry killed, prepared and packed at this establishment.

## ICE CREAM PREMISES

Routine inspections of all registered premises were made throughout the year and no action was found to be necessary.

## FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

Inspection of premises where food is prepared have been made during the year and the general standard remains satisfactory. Only minor contraventions of the Food Bye-Laws were noted and these were remedied as a result of informal action.

The conditions at food premises are more rigidly controlled under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which come into operation on the 1st January, 1956, and it will be necessary for all food premises to be thoroughly inspected to secure compliance with the provisions of the Regulations.

**MEAT AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1955**

Beef	....	....	....	....	....	456 lb.
Lamb	....	....	....	....	....	156 lb.
Pork	....	....	....	....	....	18 lb.
Cooked Ham (Canned)	....	....	....	....	....	52 lb.
Beef Slice (Canned)	....	....	....	....	....	46 lb.
Corned Beef (Canned)	....	....	....	....	....	7 lb.
Turkeys	....	....	....	....	....	15
Chickens	....	....	....	....	....	3391
Poussins	....	....	....	....	....	10
Ducks	....	....	....	....	....	9
Fish	....	....	....	....	....	109 lb.
Synthetic Cream	....	....	....	....	....	5 lb.
Gelatine	....	....	....	....	....	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Peaches (Canned)	....	....	....	....	....	2 lb.
Mixed Pickles	....	....	....	....	....	1 gallon
Piccalili	....	....	....	....	....	2 gallons









*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd.,  
Marlborough.*